Disabled Persons Act, 1995

†2739. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disabled Persons act, 1995 is in force;

(b) if so, whether there is a provision in the said Act that only those teachers who are trained in the course formulated by the Indian Rehabilitation Council, can teach the teachers imparting education to disabled children;

(c) if so, the scheme being formulated by Government for imparting training to such teachers and by when the same would be implemented; and

(d) if not, whether it is not violation of the provision of said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 is in force *w.e.f.* 07.02.1996.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Education of disabled children

2740. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that just a little less than a decade after enactment of the Persons with disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, hardly one per cent of the 20 million disabled children in the country go to schools;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and being taken by the Central and State Governments to ensure that disabled children go to schools; and

(c) the reasons for the slow pace of implementation of the Act especially with respect to the disabled children?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) According to the National Sample Survey Report No. 485 entitled "Disabled Persons in India" based on the 58th round survey conducted during July to December 2002, estimated number of children with disabilities in the age group of 05-18 years is 44.5 lakhs. According to the Report, 46.9% children with disabilities were enrolled in ordinary schools and 25% children were enrolled in special schools.

The following steps are being taken for education of children with disabilities:

(a) The Constitution was amended in December, 2002 for making free and compulsory education, a Fundamental Right for all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Accordingly, a national programme for Universal Elementary Education *viz.* Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched by the M/o Human Resource Development. It has the goal of eight years of elementary schooling for all children including children with disabilities in the age-group of 6-14 years by 2010. Under the scheme, a shelf of education options, learning aid and tool, mobility assistance, support services etc. are available for children with disabilities. Likewise augmentation of teaching skills and capabilities of teachers are also made available under the scheme.

(b) The Department of Secondary Education under Ministry of Human Resource Development undertakes a Scheme for the Integrated Education of the Disabled Children (IEDC) through Education Departments of the State Governments, Autonomous Bodies and Voluntary Organisations. Under the scheme of IEDC 100% financial assistance is provided for transport facility, books and stationery, uniform, instructional material, assistive equipments, readers facility for the visually handicapped, attendant facility for the children with locomotor disability, special teacher facilities, hostel facility for disabled children in the school campus, removal of architectural barries in schools etc.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment supports 657 institutions for running early intervention programmes, special education programmes, vocational training programmes, teachers training programmes in special education, etc.

(d) National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities provides training to care-givers for imparting home-based life-skill training to the children with severe and profound disabilities.

(e) Rehabilitation Council of India has recognized training programmes for the training of master trainers for teachers in primary schools as a part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). It has also recognized B.Ed. (Special Education) for training of teachers is special schools. This programme is implemented through National Institutes, private institutions and through distance learning.

(f) Scholarship is provided to the children with mental retardation and Cerebral Palsy under the Scheme of National Welfare Fund.

(g) Funds are provided for fitment of aids and appliances to the children with disabilities covered under SSA.

(h) All the textbooks prescribed by NCERT have been printed in Braille for children with visual disabilities.

(i) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in pursuance of the provisions of Section 30 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 has notified guidelines dated 4.11.2004 for the preparation of education scheme for persons with disabilities for implementation by the Central Ministries, organizations and autonomous bodies under their control. These guidelines have also been circulated to the State Governments for suitable adoption keeping in view their local requirements.

(j) The Government has formulated a comprehensive Action Plan for the Inclusive Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities.

The implementation of the provisions of the Act is being undertaken with a multisectoral collaborative approach by the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. They continue to take steps towards effective implementation of the various provisions of the Act, including the provisions relating to children with disabilities.